

1. (Currently Amended) A radiant electric heater (2) ~~characterised by~~ comprising: a base (8) of thermal and electrical insulation material having a surface supporting at least one electric heating element comprising at least one elongate electrically conductive ribbon (10), the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) being supported on edge; a rod-like temperature-responsive device (16) extending lengthwise partly across the heater (2) from an edge thereof and over the at least one electric heating element (10) ; the surface of the base (8) being provided with an elongate recess (22) with sloping sides (24, 26) extending beneath and along the length of the rod-like temperature-responsive device (16), characterised by the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) being supported in and traversing the elongate recess (22) such that an upper edge (28) of the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) substantially follows a contour of the surface of the recess and whereby the upper edge (28) of the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) at a region (30) underlying the rod-like temperature-responsive device (16) is provided at a predetermined distance from the rod-like temperature-responsive device (16) and is at a lower level relative to the upper edge (28) of the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) at regions (32, 34) at either side of the elongate recess (22) , the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) in the regions (32, 34) at either side of the elongate recess (22) being provided on a substantially planar surface of the base.

2. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rod-like temperature-responsive device (16) comprises metal.

3. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2, characterised in that, wherein~~ the rod-like temperature-responsive device (16) comprises a metal tube.

4. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the rod-like temperature-responsive device (16) has a first end supported at an edge region of the heater (2) and a second end (18) substantially unsupported at an inner region of the heater (2).

5. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the elongate recess (22) has a width which increases with increasing distance from the edge of the heater (2).

6. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the elongate recess (22) has a depth which increases with increasing distance from the edge of the heater (2).

7. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a substantially constant angle of the sloping sides (24, 26) of the elongate recess (22) is maintained as the depth of the elongate recess (22) increases with increasing distance from the edge of the heater (2).

8. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the elongate recess (22) is of a form selected from substantially shell and scallop form.

9. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in ~~any preceding claim,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one electrically conductive ribbon
(10) is of corrugated form.

10. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in ~~any preceding claim,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one electrically conductive ribbon
(10) is provided with a plurality of spaced-apart legs (12), the legs (12) extending
edgewise from the at least one electrically conductive ribbon (10) and being at least
partially embedded in the surface of the base (8).

11. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterised in~~
~~that~~ wherein the legs (12) are integral with the at least one electrically conductive
ribbon (10).

12. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterised in~~
~~that~~ wherein the legs (12) are secured to the at least one electrically conductive ribbon
(10).

13. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in claim 10, ~~11 or 12,~~
~~characterised in that,~~ wherein the legs (12) are partially embedded in the surface of
the base (8) to substantially the same depth in the elongate recess (22) as elsewhere
on the base (8).

14. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in ~~any preceding claim,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the base (8) comprises microporous thermal and
electrical insulation material.

15. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in ~~any preceding claim,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the base (8) is provided in a dish-like support
(6).

16. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in claim 15, ~~characterised in~~
~~that~~ wherein the dish-like support (6) is of metal.

17. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in ~~any preceding claim,~~
~~characterised by being~~ claim 1, wherein the heater is adapted for location beneath a
cooking surface (4).

18. (Currently Amended) A heater as claimed in claim 17, ~~characterised in~~
~~that~~ wherein the cooking surface (4) is of glass-ceramic material.